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Gromyko's statement has been the object of some Western-oriented comment. A BBC commentary points out a number of the statement's inconsistencies and vulnerabilities; and a French press correspondent in Moscow reports that "foreign observers" there interpret it as confirmation of the impression that "the USSR's desire for peace is a guarantee that everything will be done to avoid generalization of the conflict." Other Western-oriented comments related to the Korean situation are diverse.

THE USSR'S "INCALCULABLE FORCES" AND THE "INCITERS OF A NEW CONFLICT": The above-mentioned KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA editorial contains a greater undercurrent of warlike belligerence (as distinct from purely propagandistic belligerence) than has appeared in any comparable postwar Soviet statement related to the current international situation. It begins by reference to the Soviet people's "endeavor to defend, at any cost, the cause of peace." This is followed by praise of the Stockholm-Appeal signature campaign and of the "voices of millions (which) will not be stifled... by the explosions of bombs which the U.S. Superforts are dropping (on Pyongyang innocents) or the rear of diesel ships of U.S., British, and Australian warships hurrying to the Chinese island of Formosa and to the shores of Vietnam. The more strident the cries of Ferrestal-like generals and diplomats, the more impudent the aggressor, already dipping his hands in the blood of the peace-loving Korean people, the firmer and more decisive is the call issuing from millions of hearts to 'curb the warmongers.'" Then comes the familiar claim that "for the first time in history the world arena has been entered by an organized international front of fighters for peace"--headed by the "great and invincible Soviet Union," supported by millions throughout the world, including the "great and free Chinese people," and strengthened by the creation of the German Democratic Republic. There is then a reversion of attention to the Soviet people who, to a man, support the "peace-loving policy" of their government, who "are demonstrating once more... their unshakable readiness to maintain and defend peace" by signing the Stockholm Appeal, and to whose heart the "unbridled aggressor" is advised to listen. Immediately thereafter, these statements are linked to the context of actual war, as the following extensive quotations indicate:

"Let the unbridled aggressors listen to the heart of the Soviet people. It is the voice of a people who has proved more than once its will and determination to defend the great cause of peace. When the might of fascist barbarity fell upon Europe, the Soviet people came forward as the saviors of peace,* freedom, and democracy."

"The resolve of the Soviet people to wage the Fatherland War... was expressed by Stalin... nine years ago when he said: 'The aim of this popular war... is not only the liquidation of the menace hanging over our country, but also to help all peoples of Europe groaning under the yoke of German fascism.'** ...the Soviet people carried out with honor this sacred mission. The Soviet public and state order proved that they are superior to the capitalist order. ...the Soviet people crushed their enemies and saved European culture and civilization from the fascist gangsters."

"Our forces are incalculable. The impudent foe will soon have to convince himself of this. Many thousands of workers, collective farmers, and intellectuals will rise with the Red Army for war against the attacking enemy."** Thus spoke our leader and teacher nine years ago, and Stalin's prophecy has come true."

"Having routed the fascist aggressors, the Soviet people showed that no force exists in the world which can break it. ... Today, when affixing their signatures (to the Stockholm Appeal), every Soviet citizen repeats the words of beloved Stalin: 'Our forces are incalculable.' They return to their work... to implement their signature by further successes for the good of the beloved country. The combine operator is reaping the harvest; the steel smelter is producing a new grade of steel; the scientist is penetrating the mysteries of cell structure. We will not be intimidated by provocative acts. We are calmly and watchfully eyeing the intrigues of the enemies of peace."

* This appears to be Radio Moscow's first reference to the Soviet role in World War II in terms of defending "peace," or in the context of the current "peace campaign."

** This appears to be the first time during at least the last four years that these statements by Stalin have been quoted by Radio Moscow in any context, to say nothing of a current context.

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Thus, by a process of statement juxtaposition, the current situation--marked by the initiation of American "aggression" in the Far East and by Soviet "determination to defend the cause of peace"--is implicitly identified with the previous situation when the Soviet Union was faced with the "menace of the fascist aggressors hanging over the country" and when it also "came forward as the savior of peace...." The listener is left to draw his own conclusions.

Radio Khabarevsk and Vladivostok broadcast a commentary--not, however, in the Korean context--which also quotes from Stalin's "historic address" nine years ago. It cites Stalin's attack on the concept of an "invincible army" and his statement "that the insane plans... nursed by aggressors are doomed to failure" as constituting "a serious warning to all imperialist pretenders to world domination. The ruling circles of the U.S., at present gripped by the idea of world domination, should ponder the fate of Hitler and his ilk."

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